

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH
THE INDIAN PEOPLE IN THE
WAKE OF THE MUMBAI TER-
RORIST BOMBINGS

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2006 seven separate bombs were detonated throughout the train network in India's cultural capital, the city of Mumbai. More than 180 people were killed, and over 900 were injured. The bombs exploded simultaneously during the evening rush hour resulting in an entire shut down of the rail network which stranded hundreds of thousands of commuters. The terrorists may have hit a target with high practical and psychological impact, but I am confident that the people of India will again stand tall and not relent to such senseless and unfathomable violence.

Following the attacks, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the incidents as a "shocking and cowardly attempt to spread a feeling of hatred." Even Pakistani leaders condemned the blasts as a "despicable act of terrorism."

The tragedy continued even after the bombing, with an eyewitness reporting that some of the dazed survivors who had jumped from the train after the blast were run over by another train coming in the opposite direction.

Undoubtedly, the hospitals in Mumbai were swamped with casualties.

Many parallels can be drawn between Mumbai and New York City. Mumbai is home to 17 million people, and is headquarters to many big Indian companies and foreign multinationals, with property prices among the most expensive in the world. Both Mumbai and New York have been attacked more than once by terrorists. In 1993 New York saw the first bombing of the World Trade Center, and in the same year 250 people were killed in Mumbai from bombings throughout the city.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to remind the people of India, as partners in a civilized world, America will not stand for senseless terrorism and together we can fight this evil until it no longer impedes the advancement of society.

PROVIDING FOR EARMARKING RE-
FORM IN THE HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H. Res. 1003, a rule providing that, upon its adoption, H. Res. 1000, providing for earmarking reform in the House of Representatives is hereby adopted.

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering an important reform that members of both parties have supported. In fact, it was a key provision in the House-passed Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act. Specifically, with this new rule, member-directed spending to projects in their district, or earmarks, will no longer be anonymous.

As it stands now, there are no disclosure requirements for earmarks in appropriations, tax and authorizing legislation. Earmarks can be buried in the text of bills that often number into the thousands of pages. There is no easy way to account for how many earmarks are in a bill and who is sponsoring them.

This new rule requires sponsors of earmarks to be listed in committee reports. Conference reports must also have a list of earmarks that are "airdropped" into the agreement.

We are blowing away the fog of anonymity so the public can have a clear picture of what the projects are, how much they cost and who is sponsoring them. This is a victory for fiscal responsibility and a victory for spending taxpayer dollars wisely.

As an enforcement mechanism, this new rule also provides for a question of consideration when a bill or conference report does not contain a list of earmarks. The question of consideration is debatable for 30 minutes—15 minutes equally divided.

If a Member feels strongly enough about a proposed earmark, they will have to attach their name to it. And they need to be prepared to make their case in full view of their colleagues and constituents.

Mr. Speaker, while the report to accompany H. Res. 1000 addressed several issues regarding the implementation of this new rule, I believe that it is important to further clarify how this rule will operate after its adoption.

First, this rule will become effective immediately upon its adoption. Any report filed by a committee from that point forward should address this new rule. If there are earmarks in the bill or report, they should be listed appropriately; if there are none, I would encourage the committee chairmen to include a statement to that effect, as is often the current practice with other reporting requirements under rule XIII.

Secondly, with regard to measures in conference, we recognize that the exact requirements of the resolution may be problematic given that this rule was not in place at the point of House consideration. We believe that it is important that committee chairmen make a good faith effort to comply with the spirit of the rule, and would regard inclusion of a list of earmarks which were not in either the House or Senate bill or their accompanying reports, i.e. "airdropped" earmarks, as meeting the intent of this new rule.

Mr. Speaker, the earmark reform will build on the reforms already being implemented by the Appropriations Committee—reforms that have reduced the number of earmarks this year by 37 percent. Overall, spending on member projects was reduced \$7.8 billion below last year. Over the last 2 years, Member project spending has decreased by over \$10 billion.

I want to thank Chairman LEWIS and the Appropriations Committee for making significant progress in reining-in government spending.

I also want to make very clear that our focus is not solely on appropriations. For the reform to be effective, it must be comprehensive, and that was the commitment made by Speaker HASTERT and the leadership of the House. So let me point out that this earmark reform applies across the board. It does not just apply to some committees. It covers all committees and all appropriations, tax and authorizing legislation that moves through regular order.

Mr. Speaker, we have taken great care to clearly and precisely state what constitutes a tax, an appropriations and an authorizing earmark. And the good news is that there is more agreement than disagreement on these definitions. Yet clearly, there's no magic bullet. There is not going to be one definition that will be perfect and please everybody. But at the end of the day, we have to come together and move this process forward. If there's an earmark in a bill, it belongs on a list. It's just that simple.

Now, is this new disclosure going to completely end the practice of earmarking? No. But it will shine a spotlight on earmarks without grinding the legislative process to a halt.

And let me make very clear that the larger goal of this new rule is to make a profound and lasting change in how this institution handles earmarks and spends taxpayer dollars. The goal is to increase transparency and accountability. And the goal is to pull back the curtain on earmarks for the public, who have every right to know.

For this earmark reform to be both meaningful and lasting, everyone, from committee chairman on down, must make a good faith effort to comply with the spirit of the new rule. Our leadership—and certainly the Rules Committee—has made such a commitment. We are determined to make this work.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to point out that while this is an important milestone on the path toward reform, we have not reached the goal-line. Reform is a continuous process. It gains momentum from members who never let up and never settle for the status quo. I urge my colleagues to vote yes for reforming earmarks and yes to setting the stage for more reforms down the road.

RECOGNIZING GLORIA R.
RODRIGUEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Gloria R. Rodriguez. As a health care professional for over 27 years, Ms. Rodriguez has spent much of her career working to eliminate health disparities in minority and disadvantaged communities. Currently, Ms. Rodriguez serves as the CEO of the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC) which represents 43 health centers and clinics throughout the county.

Gloria was born in Culver City, California and raised in the San Fernando Valley. She attended San Jose State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health Education. Ms. Rodriguez later received her Masters of Public Health degree in Public Policy and Administration at the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

Ms. Rodriguez spent much of her career working with various community health-related organizations in Washington State. She served as CEO for the Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers (W ACMHC), the State's primary care trade/membership association, and founded the Alliance for Multi-Cultural Health in Tacoma. She also served as the Assistant Director for the

Washington State Department of Labor and Industries and CEO of the Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers. In each of these capacities, Ms. Rodriguez focused on capacity building, community development and workforce development as means to eliminate healthcare disparities in minority and disadvantaged communities. She also worked to bridge the gap between health care providers and the communities they serve.

Beyond her involvement in community health organizations, Ms. Rodriguez has 15 years experience in direct patient care in a wide range of roles, including cardiology technician, medical assistant, pharmacy technician, and lab technician. She has also worked as a health care educator and has served on a vast array of board and task forces.

Ms. Rodriguez's dedication to eliminating health disparities and providing quality health care services to her community is both admirable and inspiring. I am proud to recognize Ms. Rodriguez and her many accomplishments and wish her the best as she continues to serve the community.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR JAMES HAROLD CHENEY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize Command Sergeant Major James Harold Cheney, United States Army, as he completes a distinguished tour of duty in the United States Army.

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) James H. Cheney entered the United States Army on September 8, 1976, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since joining the U.S. Army, CSM Cheney has completed tours of duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (on five occasions); Fort Rucker, Alabama; Camp Indian, Korea; Fort Lewis, Washington; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Vilseck, Germany. Throughout his military career, CSM Cheney has served the White House Communications Agency where he was the NCOIC of the fabrications department and the Office of the Chief of Engineers at the Pentagon where he fulfilled the responsibilities as the Office of the Chief of Engineer Sergeant Major.

Additionally, CSM Cheney has been recognized for his service to the United States Army having held every Noncommissioned Officer leadership position culminating as the United States Army Garrison, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Garrison Command Sergeant Major.

Highly respected within the Army leadership, CSM Cheney has been awarded the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. CSM Cheney has also received the Drill Sergeant Badge, the Jungle Expert Badge, the Army Staff Badge, and the Presidential Service Badge. The aforementioned awards and decorations are just a few of the many that CSM Cheney has been given.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to Command Sergeant Major James H. Cheney. I know my colleagues join me in

thanking him for his service to his country and in wishing him well as he concludes his tour of duty with the United States Army.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SOUTH-
AMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise in honor of a proud and long-serving institution of my district—on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Southampton Fire Department's creation last Saturday, September 9th. I was honored to participate in this celebration, which included a parade of fire trucks and culminated with the anniversary gala at the Hampton Road Firehouse.

I am privileged to represent the Village of Southampton, New York. A common thread runs through the town's rich history—an all volunteer force that has served and responded bravely since the first firefighters in Southampton consisted of bucket brigades whose fire alarms were sounded by the village blacksmith banging on his rim.

The first company that constitutes today's fire department was the Agawam Engine Company. Founded in 1881, it was widely known for the 415-pound bell used to alert the firefighters and the handpumping hose cart they used to extinguished fires. Like many Long Island families who can proudly claim that generations served as the department, one of my ancestors, James H. Bishop, was a founding member of Agawam Company, and my great grandfather, Benjamin Bishop, later served as its chief between 1893 and 1897.

Since that time, more dangerous fires started by complex fuels and as a result of eastern Long Island's booming population have intensified the demands on the 143 current members of the Agawam Engine, Agawam Hose, Southampton Hook and Ladder, Southampton Fire Patrol, and Southampton Hose Companies. Still, they remain an all-volunteer and highly skilled force whose frequent feats of heroism and selfless dedication remind us of the firefighters who gave their lives at the World Trade Center as we observed the solemn occasion of the fifth anniversary of the September 11th attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking those firefighters who continue to protect our families and communities, and extend our deepest gratitude to volunteers, like those intrepid men and women of the Southampton Fire Department, who risk their lives each day to keep us safe.

HONORING GUNNERY SGT.
HAWLEY WALDRON

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor one of our Nation's true heroes, Gunnery Sgt. Hawley

Waldron. A decorated and distinguished serviceman, Gunnery Sergeant Hawley Waldron was an inspiration to the men he fought with in the First World War, though not even those closest to him truly understood the extent of his valor. He was a resident of Saratoga County, and I am honored to represent members of the Waldron family who take great pride in Hawley's accomplishments.

Hawley led a selfless life, never speaking of the numerous accolades he received during the war, leaving his family to discover these achievements only after his passing in 1961. Gunnery Sgt. Waldron received several awards and medals during his service including the silver star along with two gold stars signifying three separate awards for valor. He also received two Croix de Guerre decorations given by the government of France for his service. He was decorated following the battle of Belleau Wood, in which he helped the Allied forces turn back the German army advancing on Paris and in doing so paved the way for Germany's ultimate defeat.

America's armed service men and women are held in the highest regard in this Nation and Hawley Waldron was one of our greatest. It is with great joy and respect that I commend the late Gunnery Sgt. Waldron for his accomplishments and the many distinguished honors he received over his 2 years of service in World War I. Our country is truly safer and honored to have had someone of the character, caliber, and courage of Gunnery Sgt. Hawley Waldron. I would like to offer the deepest gratitude on behalf of myself, the United States House of Representatives and all Americans for his dedication to our country.

HONORING DR. OLEH SHAMSHUR,
UKRAINE'S AMBASSADOR TO
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
UKRAINE'S PROCLAMATION OF
INDEPENDENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Dr. Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States and extend a warm welcome to him as he visits Cleveland, Ohio to celebrate the Fifteenth Anniversary of Ukraine's Proclamation of Independence with leaders and members of our Ukrainian-American community.

For nearly 80 years, the United Ukrainian Organizations of Greater Cleveland have served as a vital coalition of historical and cultural significance, aimed at preserving and promoting all aspects of Ukrainian culture. These guardians of history have succeeded in keeping alive the rich traditions of their beloved homeland—from Ukraine's religious and social customs, to the artistic, history and world contributions that have left an indelible mark across the globe.

Following the fall of the Soviet Union and the rebirth of Ukrainian statehood, the United Ukrainian Organizations of Greater Cleveland bolstered fundraising and outreach efforts that extended from the shores of Lake Erie to the sands of the Black Sea. Additionally, this organization was instrumental in the creation of the